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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/017,295	02/02/1998	TOSHIAKI IGARASHI	862.2098	8124

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EXAMINER	
DINH, DUNG C	
ART UNIT	**PAPER NUMBER**
2153	

DATE MAILED: 02/08/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/017,295	IGARASHI ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Dung Dinh	2153	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *13 January 2005*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-3,60,62,64-69,74,75,77-79,84,85 and 87-89* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-3,60,62,64-69,74,75,77-79,84,85 and 87-89* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 1/13/06 has been entered.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 1/13/06 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argued that the references do not show overlapped sheets with selection tabs, the selected sheet is visible while the non-selected sheets are not visible, the first sheet is visible at initial display, etc. The argument is not persuasive because these are merely conventional features of tabbed sheets display metaphor as shown by the figure in the '95 Manual reference. It is well known in the art that this type of interface opens with a default sheet visible while other sheets are hidden behind it (see Figure in '95 Manual p.22). Each of the sheets is selected via a corresponding labeled tab. Only

the selected sheet is brought to the front and becomes visible while the other sheets are hidden. Therefore, the newly added limitations recite nothing more than conventional features of a tabbed sheets display metaphor as shown in the '95 Manual reference.

Applicant argued that Marlin does not teach the information is retrieved upon selection of the sheet. The argument is not persuasive because Marlin teaches providing device information in form of reports. Marlin's report is equivalent to the sheet as claimed. Marlin teaches a report contains link to open another report (Marlin col.14 lines 51-56). The report contains definition syntax which cause retrieval of information for that report (Marlin col. 16 lines 22-27). Hence, it is apparent that Marlin teaches retrieval of information only upon selection of the report (i.e. 'sheet').

Applicant argued that Marlin does not teach sheets providing partial information of the same device. The argument is not persuasive because Marlin's teaching generic interface that is applicable to display of information on a whole system or attributes of one component (Marlin col.18 lines 28-47). Furthermore, the '95 Manual clearly shows a sheets interface for displaying information about one device (a printer). It is apparent from the tabs' labels that each sheet provides

different set of information about the printer (see Figure on page 23 of '95 Manual, tabs 1 to 6).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> *(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.*

Claims 1-3, 60, 62, 64-69, 74, 75, 77-79, 84, 85, and 87-89, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Marlin et al (US 5,778,377) and "Windows 95 printer driver operation manual" (the '95 Manual) and further in view of Rowe et al. US patent 5,737,599.

As set forth in claim 1, Marlin et al disclose a displaying method of acquiring information related to a selected network device of the plurality of network devices, and displaying acquired information of the selected network device, (Marlin does this on the GUI display, see figs. 5 and 8, col.9 line 65 to col.10 line 3), said method comprising: a first display step of acquiring a first information related to the selected network

device and displaying the first information on an initial screen of a device window, which is a window allocated to the selected network device (see col.14 lines 33-34 - data related to a particular printer) and a second display step of acquiring, in response to a user request for display of a second screen a second information which in addition and different from the first information ('Double clicking may be used to invoke another report' see col. 14, lines 54-56), from the selected network device and displaying the second information on the second screen; see col. 15, lines 54-66.

Marlin specifically displays a GUI that contains columns and rows displaying the status of the network devices, these devices are polled and the results are subsequently used to update the status of the devices. Furthermore, each of the menu definitions has a custom menu for each of the functions that can also be displayed and updated; see col. 14, lines 15-41, and lines 50-66, and col. 15, lines 1-66, also see col. 16, lines 54-63 (here when a browser button is pressed, information for a selected DMI object will be displayed in a box (window), in addition description can be gathered for the object though the GUI), col. 15, lines 54-66. Hence, Marlin teaches retrieval of information responsive to activation request by the user.

However, Marlin does not teach using a device window with first and second sheets with tabs for switching between the sheets. However, the usage display window comprising sheets and tabs metaphor is well known in the art at the time of the invention. The '95 Manual discloses the usage of sheets with tabs. Each sheet provides separate and different groups of status information concerning same device (a printer). Each sheet is displayed upon activation of the corresponding tab. Hence, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to use the sheets and tabs with Marlin because it would have enabled the system to organize the display of the dynamically collected into groups that can be efficiently assessable by the user and conforming to the look-and-feel of the Windows operating system at the time.

Regarding the limitations of overlap invisible sheets and initial visible sheet, these are inherent features of the tabbed sheets interface as shown in the '95 Manual.

Regarding the limitations of each sheet displaying different partial information about the device, the '95 Manual shows each sheet containing different partial information about the same device (apparent from the tabs 1 to 6 shown on page 23). Marlin's teaching generic interface that is applicable to display of information on a whole system or attributes of one

component (Marlin col.18 lines 28-47). Hence each sheet displaying partial information about one device would have been within the teaching of Marlin.

Regarding the limitation of retrieving information for the sheet upon selection of the sheet, Marlin teaches retrieval of information responsive to activation request by the user (col.14 lines 51-56, col.16 lines 22-27). Hence, it is apparent that Marlin system as modified would retrieve the information associated with a sheet(report) upon selection of the corresponding tab in order to provide data associated with that sheet. Furthermore, in similar field of information retrieval over a network, Rowe teaches to provide only information portion request instead of providing the whole set (document) to enable the user to quickly view the request portion instead of waiting for the entire set to downloaded (col.2 lines 20-27). Hence, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to retrieve only portion of information requested because it would have permit the user to quickly view the requested information portion without the delay incurred in retrieval of the whole set of information.

As per claims 2 and 3, they are system and computer product corresponding to the method of claim 1. Hence, they are rejected under similar rationales as for claim 1 above.

As set forth in claim 60, Marlin discloses a displaying method wherein said first display step includes forming a list of information required for display of the initial screen, acquiring listed information, and storing the acquired information in memory; see col. 14, lines 15-41, and lines 50-66, and col. 1 5, lines 1-66), also see col. 16, lines 54-63 (the information is arranged in columns and rows, as well as having a tool bar located on the GUI, the GUI further has the ability to bring up reports on an object by double clicking on a location on the display; see col. 14, lines 52-56, in addition description can be gathered for the object through the GUI, the information is stored in a database the is updated periodically or that can be queried when needed, Col. 15, lines54-66.

As set forth in claim 62, Marlin discloses a displaying method wherein said first display step includes forming a list of information required for display of the second screen, acquiring listed information, and storing the acquired information in memory; see col. 14, lines 15-41, and lines 50-66, and col. 1 5, lines 1-66), also see col. 16, lines 54-63

(the information is arranged in columns and rows, as well as having a tool bar located on the GUI, the GUI further has the ability to bring the reports on an object by double clicking on a location on the display; see col. 14, lines 52-56, in addition description can be gathered for the object through the GUI, the information is stored in a database the is updated periodically or that can be queried when needed, Col. 15, lines 54-66.

As set forth in claim 64, Marlin discloses a displaying method further comprising a determination step of determining whether information is to be acquired from the selected network device. [Each component has a Management information format (MIF) file and is made available for responding to management commands, this information for use with the system can be dynamic information ("to obtain current values of dynamically changing attributes, the DMI makes available "Component instrumentation") code for acquiring the attribute value from the source (see col. 13, 39-45) or a memory storing information acquired from the selected network device (static information can be obtained about the device, or the database can be queried; see col. 14, lines 52-56, also see col. 5, lines 19-31.]

As set forth in claim 65, Marlin discloses a displaying method wherein said first display step or said second display

includes acquiring information from the selected network device, if it is determined that information is to be acquired from the selected network device, or acquiring information from the memory, if it is determined that information is to be acquired from the memory (each component has a Management information format (MIF) file and is made available for responding to management commands, this information for use with the system can be dynamic information ("to obtain current values of dynamically changing attributes, the DMI makes available "Component instrumentation"); code for acquiring the attribute value from the source (see col. 13, 39-45) or a memory storing information acquired from the selected network device (static information can be obtained about the device, or the database can be queried; see col. 14,lines 52-56).

As set forth in claim 66, Marlin discloses a displaying method wherein said second display step is executed if a tab is clicked on a device window; see col. 14, lines 42-49 (toolbar and GUI discussed).

As set forth in claim 67, Marlin discloses a displaying method wherein the initial screen is a screen that displays a status of the selected network device, a screen that displays a list of jobs, a screen that displays a manufacturer, a product name, an installation location, a product version, or a toner

cartridge model, or a screen that displays information about a network interface board or information about a network protocol; see col. 13, lines 9-59 (this passage discusses the getting static and dynamic information about the component).

As set forth in claim 68, Marlin discloses a displaying method wherein the second screen is a screen that displays a status of the selected network device, a screen that displays a list of jobs, a screen that displays a manufacturer, a product name, an installation location, a product version, or a toner cartridge model, or a screen that displays information about a network interface board or information about a network protocol; see col. 13, lines 9-59 (this passage discusses the getting static and dynamic information about the component).

As set forth in claim 69, Marlin discloses a displaying method further comprising a search step of searching for network devices connected to a network and displaying a list of the network devices, wherein said first display step is executed when one of the network devices on the list is selected by a user (a device can be queried, and polling will automatically retrieve information about devices collected to the network', see col. 14, lines 15-40).

As set forth in claim 74, Marlin discloses an apparatus further comprising a determination unit (such a device would be

present to determine whether a requested device is static or dynamic information) for determining whether information is to be acquired from the selected network device or a memory storing information acquired from the selected network device (each component has a Management information format (MIF) file and is made available for responding to management commands, this information for use with the system can be dynamic information or obtain current values of dynamically changing attributes, the DMI makes available "component instrumentation" code for acquiring the attribute value from the source. (See col. 13, 39-45) or a memory storing information acquired from the selected network device (static information can be obtained about the device, or the database can be queried); see col. 14, lines 52-56, also see col.5, lines 19-31.

As set forth in claim 75, Marlin discloses an apparatus wherein said first display unit or said second display unit acquires information from the selected network device, if it is determined that information is to be acquired from the selected network device, or acquires information from the memory, if it is determined that information is to be acquired from the memory (each component has a Management information format (MIF) file and is made available for responding to management commands, this information for use with the system can be dynamic

information to obtain current values of dynamically changing attributes, the DMI makes available "component instrumentation" code for acquiring the attribute value from the source. (See col. 13, 39-45) or a memory storing information acquired from the selected network device (static information can be obtained about the device, or the database can be queried); see col. 14, lines 52-56, also see col.5, lines 19-31.

As set forth in claim 77, Marlin discloses an apparatus wherein the initial screen is a screen is a screen that displays a status of the selected network device, a screen that displays a list of jobs, a screen that displays a manufacturer, a product name, an installation location, a product version, or a tone cartridge model, or a screen that displays information about a network interface board or information about a network protocol; see col. 13, lines 9-59 (this passage discusses the getting static and dynamic information about the component).

As set forth in claim 78, Marlin discloses an apparatus, wherein the second screen is a screen that displays status of the selected network device, a screen that displays a list of jobs, a screen that displays a manufacturer, a product name, an installation location, a product version, or a tone cartridge model, or a screen that displays information about a network interface board or information about a network protocol', see

col. 13, lines 9-59 (this passage discusses the getting static and dynamic information about the component).

As set forth in claim 79, Marlin discloses an apparatus further comprising: a search unit for searching for network devices connected to a network; and a display for displaying a list of the network devices, wherein said first display unit executes acquisition of the first information when one of the listed network devices is selected by a user (a device can be queried, and polling will automatically retrieve information about devices connected to the network; see col. 14, lines 15-40).

As set forth in claim 84, Marlin discloses a recording medium further comprising program code for a determination step of determining step of determining whether information is to be acquired from the selected network device or a memory storing information acquired from the selected network device (each component has a Management information format (MIF) file and is made available for responding to management commands, this information for use with the system can be dynamic information to obtain current values of dynamically changing attributes, the DMI makes available "component instrumentation" code for acquiring the attribute value from the source. (See col. 13, lines 39-45) or a memory storing information acquired from the

selected network device (static information can be obtained about the device, or the database can be queried); see col. 14, lines 52-56, also see col. 5, lines 19-31.

As set forth in claim 85, Marlin discloses a recording medium wherein the first display step or the second display step or the second display step includes acquiring information from the selected network device, if it is determined that information is to be acquired from the selected network device, or acquiring information from the memory, if it is determined that information is to be acquired from the memory (each component has a Management information format (MIF) file and is made available for responding to management commands, this information for use with the system call be dynamic information to obtain current values of dynamically changing attributes, the DMI makes available "component instrumentation" code for acquiring the attribute values from the source. (See col. 13, 39-45) or a memory storing information acquired from the selected network device (static information can be obtained about the device, or the database can be queried); see col. 14, lines 52-56, also see col. 5, lines 19-31.

As set forth in claim 87, Marlin discloses a recording medium wherein the initial screen is a screen that displays a

status of the selected network device, a screen that displays a list of jobs, a screen that displays a manufacturer, a product name, an installation location, a product version, or a toner cartridge model, or a screen that displays information about a network interface board or information about a network protocol; see col. 13, lines 9-59 (this passage discusses the getting static and dynamic information about the component).

As set forth in claim 88, Marlin discloses a recording medium wherein the second screen is a screen that displays a status of the selected network device, a screen that displays a list of jobs, a screen that displays a manufacturer, a product name, an installation location, a product version, or a toner cartridge model, or a screen that displays information about a network interface board or information about a network protocol, see col. 13, lines 9-59 (this passage discusses the getting static and dynamic information about the component).

As set forth in claim 89, Marlin discloses a recording medium further comprising: program code for a search step of searching for network devices connected to a network; and program code for a display step of displaying a list of the network devices, wherein said first display step is

executed when one of the listed network devices is selected by a user (a device can be queried, and polling will automatically retrieve information about devices connected to the network; see col. 14, lines 15-40).

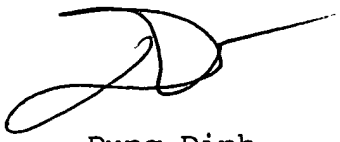
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dung Dinh whose telephone number is (571) 272-3943. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 7:00 AM - 3:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Glenton Burgess can be reached at (571) 272-3949.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Dung Dinh
Primary Examiner
February 1, 2006